UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/2000/191
7 March 2000
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 6 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 March 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing pursuit by the United States of America and the United Kingdom of a policy of hostility towards Iraq. During the period from 22 to 29 February 2000, United States and British military aircraft carried out a total of 165 hostile sorties over the cities and villages of Iraq, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 5 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, between 22 and 29 February 2000, United States and British military aircraft, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, continued to violate Iraqi airspace, carrying out a total of 165 aerial sorties, of which 87 were from Saudi Arabia, 26 from Kuwait and 52 from Turkey. Details are given below:

1. The northern region: 52 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres:

(a) At 1135 hours on 23 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 16 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Baibo, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Sinjar and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 28 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 14 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Baibo and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1105 hours on 29 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 22 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Baibo, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Sinjar and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

2. The southern region: 113 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres:

(a) At 1220 hours on 22 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 sorties, 30 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 14 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Taqtaqanah, Qal'at Salih, Afak,

Amarah, Diwaniyah, Ushbayjah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2000 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1910 hours on 23 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 6 sorties, 4 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 2 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Lasaf, Ushbayjah, Aniyah, Artawi and Umm Qasr areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2100 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1920 hours on 24 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, they carried out 10 sorties, overflying the Lasaf, south Najaf, Rifa'i, Nasiriyah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2030 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0850 hours on 26 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 sorties, 18 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 4 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Samawah, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Qala't Sukkar and Shatrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1040 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0845 hours on 28 February 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 19 sorties, 13 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 6 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Samawah, Ushbayjah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah, Afak, Nukhayb, Basra, Safwan, Amarah, Najaf and Ali al-Gharbi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1030 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0805 hours on 29 February 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 sorties, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and overflew the Lasaf, Malutabat, Ushbayjah and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1033 hours, drove them off.

These acts of aggression represent the continuation of a fixed policy of hostility against Iraq pursued by the United States of America and the United Kingdom since 1992 and aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and regional security, deliberately and systematically bringing death to Iraq's citizens and inflicting damage upon its infrastructure and

civilian installations. This policy has been confirmed by the repeated statements of United States and British officials purporting to defend the aerial exclusion zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the so-called aerial exclusion zones, which were imposed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom pursuant to a unilateral decision which has no legal basis or legitimacy. Iraq rejects all measures taken on the basis of this illegal decision and, in particular, the fabricated excuses and pretexts used by those two States in efforts to disguise their military aggression against our country.

The logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the United States and British sides make them key partners in the aggression against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for these acts against the Iraqi people.

The Government of Iraq, in condemning these acts of provocation, requests that you intervene with the Governments of the States in question with a view to bringing a halt to such acts and preventing their recurrence.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq